

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 00337 122041Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6212

UNCLAS CARACAS 0337

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, VE

SUBJ: SIX NEW VENEZUELAN STATE GOVERNORS TAKE OFFICE

REF: CARACAS 0235

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ NAMED SIX NEW GOVERNORS ON JANUARY 11 AND SWORE THEM IN SAME DAY. THESE GUBERNATORIAL CHANGES ARE A SEQUEL TO CABINET CHANGES ANNOUNCED JANUARY 7. FOUR OF THESE SWORN IN ARE NEW TO THIS OFFICE AND ONE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM ONE GOVERNORSHIP TO ANOTHER.

2. AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOLLOWS:

A) MIRANDA STATE: GASTON NAVARRO DONA. BORN IN CARIACO, 1932. LAW DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY DE LOS ANDES IN 1958, THEN SERVED AS A JUDGE OF CRIMINAL COURTS, DIRECTOR OF PRISONS, OFFICIAL IN THE OFFICE OF THE FISCAL GENERAL, AND TWICE AS THE GOVERNOR OF SUCRE STATE. HE REPLACES MANUEL MANTILLA, APPOINTED LAST WEEK AS THE NEW FEDERAL DISTRICT GOVERNOR. COMMENT: THIS TRANSFER IS A SOLID PROMOTION FROM NAVARRO WHO IN SEPTEMBER 1976 WAS CHARGED WITH PERMITTING "ADMINISTRATIVE IRREGULARIES" IN SUCRE. HE DENIED THE ACCUSATION AND, INDEED, NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE COME OF IT.

B) ARAGUA STATE: ANIBAL RUEDA. BORN MARCH 20, 1933. RECEIVED UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CARACA 00337 122041Z

LAW DEGREE FROM UNIVERSIDAD CENTRAL DE VENEZUELA (UCV) IN 1958, AND THEN STUDIED INTERNATIONAL AND AVIATION LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS. RUEDA WAS DIRECTOR OF THE LAW SCHOOL AND DEAN OF THE LAW FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CARABOBO, THEN VICE DEAN, AND MOST RECENTLY (72-76) RECTOR OF THAT UNIVERSITY.

C) SUCRE STATE: LUIS JOSE MARTINEZ GONZALEZ. MARTINEZ

RECEIVED A CIVIL ENGINEERING DEGREE IN 1945, WORKED FOR THREE YEARS IN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND THEN WAS EMPLOYED FOR MANY YEARS AS AN ENGINEER SPECIALIZING IN HIGHWAY AND HOUSING CONSTRUCTION FOR THE BANCO OBRERO.

D) AMAZONAS FEDERAL TERRITORY: JULIO YANEZ MARCHAN. MOST RECENTLY, YANEZ WAS VENEZUELAN CONSUL IN ARUBA. HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS VENEZUELAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN BRASILIA, DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENTIAL RELATIONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND WAS ONCE GOVERNOR OF APURE STATE.

E) ANZOATEGUI STATE: DIEGO PENALVER. GRADUATED IN CIVIL ENGINEERING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN. PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ORIENTE DURING FOURTEEN YEARS. HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF ANZOATEGUI STATE FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS.

F) BOLIVAR STATE: FORTUNATO ADRIAN MORILLO. HAS WORKED AS MUNICIPAL ENGINEER IN BOLIVAR STATE, WITH MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS, AND HAS BEEN DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS IN BOLIVAR STATE. MOST RECENTLY, MORILLO WAS DIRECTOR OF TRAFFIC IN THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS.

3. LOCAL PRESS IS ALSO SPECULATING THAT THERE MAY BE AT LEAST ONE MORE CHANGE IN STATE GOVERNORSHIPS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
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